

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN MARK NOENNIG**, on March 1, 2001 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Mark Noennig, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Rod Bitney, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Joan Andersen (R)  
Rep. Eileen Carney (D)  
Rep. Larry Cyr (D)  
Rep. John Esp (R)  
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R)  
Rep. Hal Jacobson (D)  
Rep. Rick Laible (R)  
Rep. Jesse Laslovich (D)  
Rep. Bob Lawson (R)  
Rep. Michelle Lee (D)  
Rep. Brad Newman (D)  
Rep. Ken Peterson (R)  
Rep. William Price (R)  
Rep. James Whitaker (R)  
Rep. Cindy Younkin (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jeff Mangan, Vice Chairman (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Eddye McClure, Legislative Branch  
Pati O'Reilly, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SB 41 SB 149, 2/21/2001  
Executive Action: SB 41; SB 149

HEARING ON SB 41

**Sponsor:** Senator Glen Roush, SD 43

**Proponents:** Jim Greene, Dept. of Military Affairs  
Mark Denkey, Sanders County 911 Manager  
Troy McGee, Helena Chief of Police  
Jane Jelinski, MACO  
Jim Oberhoffer, MT Assn. of Peace Officers  
Greg Newsome, PSCB  
Pat Clinch, Montana Council of Firefighters

**Opponents:** None

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:** Senator Roush introduced SB 41. this bill would require all dispatchers to take the 911 emergency course. This promotes fast response to emergencies and could potentially save lives. {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 3.3 - 6.6}

**Proponents' Testimony:** Jim Greene, Military Affairs, We need this bill to train dispatchers how to handle emergency situations. **EXHIBIT**(loh47a01){Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 6.6 - 7.4}

**Mark Denkey, Sanders County 911 Manager.** I am currently in Helena teaching the 911 course to 22 people. I have brought some testimony from Billings in support of this bill. **EXHIBIT**(loh47a02){Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 7.4 - 10.2}

**Troy McGee, Helena Chief of Police and Montana Peace Officers.** We urge your support on this bill. Butte-Silver Bow has asked me to extend their support for this bill. {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 10.2 - 11.5}

**Jane Jelinski, MACO.** We support this bill. It is needed for public safety. {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 11.5 - 12}

**Jim Oberhoffer, MT Board of Crime Control and MT Council of Police Officers.** We stand in support of this bill. There is a need for dispatcher training. {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 12 - 14.8}

**Greg Newsome, Law and Justice Academy.** We stand in support of this bill. **EXHIBIT**(loh47a03){Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 14.8 - 17.4}

**Pat Clinch, Montana Firefighter Assn.** We are in support of this bill, as dispatchers serve as our lifeline. {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 17.4 - 18.6}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: **Rep. Peterson:** **Sen. Roush**, this bill provides for a one time training? **Sen. Roush** deferred to **Mr. Oberhoffer**, Yes, that is correct. **Rep. Peterson:** Is there a need for additional training? **Mr. Oberhoffer:** There is a need for continuing ed. There are continuing ed courses offered on-line and at the academy. These are not mandatory but certainly are necessary.

**Rep. Laslovich:** **Sen. Roush**, What is happening with the fiscal note? **Sen. Roush:** This fiscal note was taken off in the Senate, but we had to put it back on to reflect the cost of collecting the 911 monies.

**Rep. Noennig:** **Mr. Oberhoffer**, Everyone that is employed at this time is exempted. Why? **Mr. Oberhoffer:** Most of the current employees have attended training. If they have not received training they should attend training. **Surry Latham:** She has been with the 911 program for several years and was a dispatcher in Missoula for 8 years. Some agencies do not send their dispatchers to training because of the cost and smaller offices need to stagger the training to keep their offices staffed. {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 18.6 - 28.3}

Closing by Sponsor: **Sen. Roush** closed SB 43. This bill relates to federal, state, county and city governments. It is needed for public safety. {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 28.3 - 29.1}

#### HEARING ON SB 149

Sponsor: Senator Grosfield, SD 13

Proponents: Karen Strege, State Library  
Kathy House, Big Sky Library  
Marlene Fontana, Friends of Big Sky Library  
Jim Smith, MT Library Association  
Joe Mazurek, City of Great Falls

**Opponents:** None

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:** Sen. Grosfield is carrying this bill on behalf of the State Library. It calls for consolidation and realignment of library districts. It also gives libraries the authority to vote 1 mill. This bill not going to fix all the problems that libraries have but it is one tool they can use to help fix some of their problems. {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 29.1 - 30} {Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 6}

**Proponents' Testimony:** Karen Strege, State Librarian, This bill is the first priority for the State Library this session. We need to redefine the districts to continue to fund our libraries. This will allow rural areas to join the larger areas in establishing a library district, which would spread the tax cost over a larger area. (EXHIBIT(loh47a04) {Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 6 - 9.9}

Kathy House, Librarian, Big Sky Library. We are asking your support for this bill. Our alternatives to establish a community library are few and most are not workable. We need this bill to establish a community library, as the current law restricts library districts to cities and counties. EXHIBIT(loh47a05) {Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 9.9 - 12.9}

Marlene Fontana, Friends of Big Sky Library. Supporter of SB 149. Her testimony is in Exhibit 6. EXHIBIT(loh47a06) {Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 12.9 - 16.1}

Jim Smith, Montana Library Association. We support this legislation. I represent an association of librarians working in schools, university, private industry and public libraries. This bill will benefit all Montanans. {Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 16.1 - 19.4}

Joe Mazurek, City of Great Falls. We support this bill. {Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 19.4 - 20}

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** Rep. Peterson: Sen. Grosfield, my community has a very extensive library, how do you envision this bill dovetailing with larger libraries? Sen. Grosfield: I do not think the larger libraries will not use this bill.

**Rep. Anderson**, asked **Marlene Fontana** and **Kathy House** to explain what problems they were having at Big Sky. They explained in detail the problems they had encountered and how this bill would help them.

**Rep. Noennig: Karen Strege**, Last session we had a bill dealing with libraries federations, why could we not amend that bill by adding unincorporated? **Karen Strege**, They have no taxing authority. *{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 20 - 30} {Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 5.1}*

**Closing by Sponsor: Sen. Grosfield** closed SB 149. He addressed the questions of the committee. **Rep. Younkin** will carry on the house floor. *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 5.1 - 7.7}*

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 41

**Motion/Vote:** REP. BITNEY moved that SB 41 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously. *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 7.7 - 9}* Rep. Liable was absent and did not vote.

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 149

**Motion/Vote:** REP. YOUNKIN moved that SB 149 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously. Rep. Liable was absent and did not vote. Rep. Younkin to carry on house floor. *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 9 - 11}* Rep. Liable was absent and did not vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:44 P.M.

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REP. MARK NOENNIG, Chairman

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PATI O'REILLY, Secretary

MN/PO

**EXHIBIT** (loh47aad)